11th November 1961]

Land reclamation

* 2011 *Q.*—SRI T. T. DANIEL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether the Government have issued orders to the Public Works Department to undertake land reclamation work in all the paddy fields damaged by the recent floods in Tamilnad?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir. The Agriculture Department themselves are taking necessary action to reclaim the lands damaged by the recent floods.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : May I know the extent of paddy fields affected by the recent floods and may I also know whether any loan facilities are given to the landholders for land reclamation?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : About the Kanyakumari district, in which the hon. Member must be particularly interested, it is reported that an area of about 514·50 acres has been sand cast. It is reported further that the lands affected by the sand cast could be reclaimed by manual labour and therefore no mechanical reclamation is necessary. The District Agricultural Officer of that district has recommended the grant of one-fourth of the cost as subsidy for land reclamation purposes and that is under the consideration of the Government.

Then an area of about 2,400 acres in the Thanjavur district and an area of about 198 acres in the Tiruchirappalli district have been sand cast by the recent floods and the reclamation work is found necessary. Of this total area of about 2,590 acres, 1,973 acres where the depth of sand is only up to 6 inches, could be reclaimed by manual labour. The remaining 625 acres (500 acres in the Thanjavur district and 125 acres in the Tiruchirappalli district) where the depth of sand is up to 3 feet is proposed to be reclaimed with the help of departmental bull-dozers.

So, arrangements are being made for getting the required number of bull-dozers. They want about 14 bull-dozers for the Thanjavur district and five bull-dozers for the Tiruchirappalli district. Whatever bull-dozers are available are being put into commission and other bull-dozers are being requisitioned.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : May I know whether the Government propose to grant subsidy to the affected ryots without any application from them or is it necessary that they should apply for it?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : They need not apply but they must agree to pay two-thirds of the total cost involved and one-third could be given by way of subsidy.